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the other side. Rev. J. D. King, who is familiar with the marine flora of Martha's Vineyard, informs me that he has never found it there; Mr. W. A. Setchell has looked for it, unsuccessfully, in Long Island Sound; and as there is no reliable report of its occurrence elsewhere on this coast, I think it safe to say that it is practically confined to a few miles of shore from Wood's Holl north.

At the southern point of this range are the extensive works of the Pacific Guano Company, which has for some twenty years brought here for manufacture large quantities of phosphate from South Carolina and the Caribbean Sea. But for several years previous to 1870 this company obtained its raw guano from Howland's Island, which is nearly in the center of the range of the alga in question in the Pacific Ocean. If we compare the dates given above, and consider the very limited district inhabited by this species here, its abundance in that district, and its absence from adjacent districts where the conditions are the same and the marine flora in other respects is identical, it seems to me at least probable that we have a case of a species introduced by human agency; probably the first case noticed among the algæ of this region.

FRANK S. COLLINS.

A Possible Natural Hybrid.

The two species of *Tragopogon* are not rare in some patches of grass-land near New Brunswick, the *T. porrifolius*, L., being the more common and very likely the older fugitive from Europe, while *T. pratensis*, L., is a smaller but none the less attractive species. A very marked difference in the color of the flowers serves to distinguish the species instantly when in bloom. The particular purpose of this note is to record the discovery of a probable hybrid between these two closely related species of salify. One plant has been found combining the characteristics of the violet-purple species with those of the yellow *T. pratensis*. In size, the plant in question is midway between the two species; the peduncle has less of the swollen and fistulose nature of *T. porrifolius*, and is more enlarged than those of the normal *T. pratensis*. The involucre bracts surpass the flowers in the purple species, while in the yellow they are equalled, if not exceeded

by the corolla tips. In our hybrid the mean is struck, with this exception that the corollas are not of as uniform a length as in the types. Two are quite short and the others are long, as if there was an indecision due to contending forces naturally expected in a hybrid. But the point that is most interestingly striking is the happy mixing of the floral colors. The ligulate corollas are of peculiar purple and yellow, not easily described in words. To say they are rose is to come near, but not to accurately name the shade. The lower part of the flowers have a decided yellow tint, so that upon looking into the center of the head the inner part is of a yellow cast, while the outer parts, the marginal flowers, have the violet predominating.

It is rarely that we have such strikingly different colors as purple and yellow in close inflorescences in species of such manifest near kinship as our two *Tragopogons*, and they open up an interesting field for experiments in artificial hybridization with reference to the permanence of colors and other questions in cross-fertilization. The supposed natural hybrid plant has been marked, and it is hoped to save seed from it and determine if possible the enduring qualities of the progeny.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

RUTGERS COLLEGE, May 19, 1890.

Botrychium simplex, Hitch., in Maryland.

So far as I am aware this plant has until recently been known from only "New England, New York and northward."* A variety, however, is found in Wyoming Territory and California. During the early part of the summer of 1888, I found *B. simplex*, Hitch., growing in an overgrown thicket near Ellicott City, Md.

There were only three small plants growing near one another. I took one and marked the exact spot of the remaining two. Next season I could find no sign of either, but nearby (foot or two) were two others which either were not there the year before or that I did not notice, although I searched the place for some time. Growing in the same thicket I may mention, among the rare ferns, at least in this vicinity, *B. ternatum*, Swz., (two vars.), as well as *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, L., which is, indeed,

* It has been found on the Pocono Mt., Pennsylvania.—ED.